

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG, UR

SUBJECT: INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER QUESTIONS

1. THE SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR APPROACHED DCM AT RECEPTION JANUARY 28 TO ASK WHETHER WE HAD HEARD TIGER SIDDIQUI WAS "LEADING A GROUP WHICH INCLUDED INDIANS AND WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY INDIAN ARTILLERY (DIRECTED) ACCROSS THE BORDER INTO BANGLADESH LAST WEEK." THE SOVIET SPOKE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE NEW BENGALI DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO ALLOWED ONLY THAT HE HEARD TWO WEEKS AGO SIDDIQUI WAS CONDUCTING RAIDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER AND OTHERWISE MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF. THE BENGALIEE HAD NO COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATION BY THE SOVIET.

2. THE MEA JOINT SECRETARY FOR BANGLADESH, WHEN ASKED ABOUT SITUATION ON INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER JANUARY 28, MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY UNUSUAL BORDER INCIDENTS OR PROBLEMS. ON PAST OCCASIONS HE HAS BEEN QUICK TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION ANY BORDER OFFENSES CHARGED TO BANGLADESH.

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3. HE DKF NOTENWN PASSING THAT THE MARITIME BOUNDARY QUESTION HAD NOT THUS FAR BEEN RAISED BETWEEN THE NEW BDG AND GOI, THAT THE INDIANS WOULD NOT RAISE IT IF BDG DID NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE, AND THAT THE GOI INTENDED TO MAKE "NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS" ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT -- THE SOVIET MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN ON AN INFORMATION-SEEKING MISSION BUT WE FIND IT CURIOUS HE SHOULD BE LENDING SUPPORT TO ALLEGATIONS ADVERSE TO THE INDIANS. IT IS TRUE THIS PARTICULAR SOVIET HAS IN THE P

5 3VINCED LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN INDIAN PROFESSIONS OF GOOD BEHAVIOR VIS A VIS BANGLADESH. A JOKE HE WAS PRIVATELY PROMOTING A MONTH AGO ALLEGED THAT THE GRENADE THROWN INTO THE INDIAN MISSION COMPOUND IN DACCA LATE LAST FALL WAS THE SAME ONE WHICH DIDN'T EXPLODE IN AN ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HERE ON CHIEF JUSTICE RAY LAST SUMMER. THE INDIANS STILL COULDN'T GET IT TO WORK, HE CLAIMED WITH A SMILE. SAXBE

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